



## News Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Joe DiLaura 317/232-3396

### **State awards 16 high schools \$400,000 to launch Biomedical Sciences programs**

INDIANAPOLIS (February 12, 2007) -- Sixteen Indiana high schools have each received grants of \$25,000 to begin offering Biomedical Sciences programs to better prepare students for careers in the Life Sciences field, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today.

"The life sciences industry is fast-growing in Indiana, and we want our Hoosier students well-prepared for these important jobs," said Governor Daniels.

"The principal goal of these grants is to help students become interested and engaged in biomedicine in high school while fully preparing them for entry into postsecondary education," said Andrew Penca, Commissioner of the Department of Workforce Development.

Penca noted that Biomedical Sciences is a booming field and a critical part of the United States economy, employing over 15 million people in a wide range of occupations. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate that more than 10 percent of the national workforce is employed in the health care industry. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that 3.6 million new healthcare jobs will be created by 2014. Eight of the twenty occupations projected to have the greatest job growth over the next ten years are in healthcare.

According to a 2005 report by the Indiana Health Industry Forum, life sciences account for the employment of more than 270,000 Hoosiers in more than 12,000 businesses. It creates \$39.98 billion of economic output and \$13 billion in personal income. Further, each health industry job creates 88 jobs elsewhere in the state.

"Yet many high school graduates are ill-prepared for the rigorous college-level science and mathematics courses it takes to enter these careers," Penca said.

Biomedical Sciences is a broad field encompassing many different medical and healthcare disciplines. These include biochemistry, biomedical engineering, dentistry, forensics, microbiology, immunology, pharmacology, nursing, physiology, radiological sciences, and more.

The grants awarded by the state are part of a national program called Project Lead the Way, which seeks to increase the number and quality of engineers and engineering

technologists in the United States through collaborations among K-12 education, higher education and industry. Program participants, who often are enrolled in college preparatory math and science classes, are introduced to the rigors of the engineering field through hands-on projects such as computer-aided design, robotics, electronics and engineering design. Project Lead The Way has recently added Biomedical Sciences to its successful Pre-Engineering Program

The Indiana High Schools that will receive the grants are:

Arsenal Tech High School	Indianapolis
Bloomington North High School	Bloomington
Bloomington South High School	Bloomington
Carroll High School	Fort Wayne
Greenfield-Central High School	Greenfield
Hamilton Southeastern High School	Fishers
Hobart High School	Hobart
McKenzie Career Center/MSD Lawrence	Indianapolis
New Prairie High School	New Carlisle
Owen Valley High School	Spencer
Pike Central High School	Petersburg
Pike High School	Indianapolis
Shelbyville High School	Shelbyville
Silver Creek High School	Sellersburg
Warren Central High School/ Walker Career Center	Indianapolis
Warsaw High School	Warsaw